

Region III Plan Summary

Title: Clean Data Determination - Determinations of Attainment of the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Standards for the Liberty Clairton Nonattainment Area.

Federal Register Date: 10/25/2013 - 78 FR 63881

EPA Effective Date: 11/25/2013

Affected Area(s): The Liberty Clairton Area is comprised of the boroughs of Lincoln, Glassport, Liberty, and Port Vue and the City of Clairton, all in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Background of the Plan:

On July 16, 1997, EPA established an annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS at 15.0 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) based on a 3-year average of annual mean PM_{2.5} concentrations (62 FR 38652, July 18, 1997). See 40 CFR 50.7. The 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS was based on significant evidence and numerous health studies demonstrating that serious health effects are associated with exposures to particulate matter.

On January 5, 2005 (70 FR 944), EPA published its nonattainment area designations for the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS based upon air quality monitoring data for calendar years 2001-2003. These designations, effective on April 5, 2005, included the Liberty–Clairton Area as a nonattainment area for the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS.

EPA has previously determined that the PM_{2.5} monitoring network for the Liberty-Clairton Area is adequate. EPA found that the number of monitors in the Liberty-Clairton Area meets the minimum regulatory requirements given in 40CFR part 58, appendix D, sections 4.7, and that the monitoring network in place is in accordance with the commonwealth of Pennsylvania's most recent annual monitoring network plan approved by EPA, as required by 40 CFR 58.10. EPA has reviewed quality-assured quality-controlled, and state certified 2009-2011 and 2010-2012 ambient air quality monitoring data for the Liberty-Clairton Area. EPA has also conducted statistical analysis on this data which was needed because one of the monitors has insufficient data capture for one calendar quarter in 2011. These analyses show that design values for both monitors in the Liberty-Clairton Area are 15.0 ug/m³ or less for the 2009-2011 and 2010-2012 monitoring periods. Therefore the Liberty-Clairton Area attained the 1997 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS, considering 2009-2011 monitoring data, and continues to meet the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS, considering 2010-2012 monitoring data. The criteria for determining if an area is attaining the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS are set out in 40 CFR 50.13 and appendix N.

On July 23, 2013, EPA published a notice of proposed Rulemaking for Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which proposed to determine that the Liberty Clairton Area attained the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS by its attainment date, December 31, 2011. EPA also proposed to make a clean data determination which demonstrated that Liberty Clairton has continued to attain the 1997 PM_{2.5} NAAQS.

Summary:

This determination of attainment for the Liberty-Clairton Area is based on EPA's evaluation of quality controlled, quality assured, certified annual PM_{2.5} air quality data for the 2009–2011 and 2010–2012 monitoring periods. The monitoring data and calculated design values for Liberty-Clairton Area are summarized in Table 1 for the 2009–2011 monitoring period, and in Table 2 for the 2010–2012 monitoring period.

TABLE 1—2009–2011 LIBERTY-CLAIRTON AREA ANNUAL PM_{2.5} MONITORING DATA & COMPLETENESS

Location	Site ID	Annual mean (µg/m ³)	2009–2011 Design value
Liberty Borough ..	420030064	15.0 16.0 14.0	15.0
City of Clairton	420033007	11.3 12.5 10.7 *	11.5 ** 11.7

* The annual design value for the Clairton site reflects incomplete quarterly data during 2011.

** EPA's statistical procedure was applied to address the missing data and calculate a "complete" design value.

For the purposes of evaluating the effects of this proposed determination of attainment under subpart 4, EPA is considering the Liberty-Clairton Area to be a "moderate" PM_{2.5} nonattainment area. Under section 188 of the CAA, all areas designated nonattainment areas under subpart 4 would initially be classified by operation of law as "moderate" nonattainment areas, and would remain moderate nonattainment areas unless and until EPA reclassifies the area as a "serious" nonattainment area. Accordingly, EPA believes that it is appropriate to limit the evaluation of the potential impact of subpart 4 requirements to those that would be applicable to moderate nonattainment areas. Sections 189(a) and (c) of subpart 4 apply to moderate nonattainment areas and include an attainment demonstration (section 189(a)(1)(B)); (3) provisions for RACM (section 189(a)(1)(C)); and quantitative milestones demonstrating RFP toward attainment by the applicable attainment date (section 189(c)). In addition, EPA also evaluated the applicable requirements of subpart 1. 3 "EPA's Final Rule to implement the 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard-Phase 2 (Phase 2 Final Rule)" (70 FR 71612, 71645–46, November 29, 2005).

TABLE 2—2010–2012 LIBERTY-CLAIRTON AREA ANNUAL PM_{2.5} MONITORING DATA & COMPLETENESS

Location	Site ID	Annual mean	2010–2012 Design value (µg/m ³)
Liberty Borough	420030064	16.0 14.0 14.3	14.8
City of Clairton	420033007	12.5 10.7 9.4	* 10.9 ** 11.0

* The annual design value for the Clairton site reflects incomplete quarterly data during 2011.

** EPA’s statistical procedure was applied to address the missing data and calculate a “complete” design value.

Consistent with the requirements contained in 40 CFR part 50, EPA has reviewed the PM_{2.5} ambient air monitoring data for the monitoring periods 2009–2011 and 2010–2012 for the Liberty-Clairton Area, as recorded in the AQS database. On the basis of that review, EPA proposes to determine that the Liberty-Clairton Area (1) attained the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS by its attainment date, based on data for the 2009–2011 monitoring period, and (2) continued to attain during the 2010–2012 monitoring period.

With this action, EPA made two separate and independent determinations regarding the Liberty-Clairton Area: First, EPA made a determination that Liberty-Clairton Area has attained the 1997 annual 2.5 NAAQS by its attainment date, December 31, 2011. Second, EPA made a determination that the Liberty – Clairton Area is attaining the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS, based on quality assured and certified ambient air monitoring data for the 2010-2012 monitoring period. This final determination suspends the requirements for the Liberty-Clairton Area to submit an attainment demonstration and associated RACM, RFP plan, contingency measures, and any other planning requirements related to attainment of the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS for so long as the area continues to attain the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS

These determinations do not constitute a redesignation to attainment. The Liberty-Clairton Area will remain designated nonattainment for the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS until such time as EPA determines that the Liberty-Clairton Area meets the Clean Air Act (CAA) requirements for redesignation to attainment, including an approved maintenance plan.

Contact Person: Maria A. Pino, U.S. EPA, Region III
1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
Telephone: (215) 814-2181, Email: pino.maria@epa.gov